

79. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide consisting of the amino acids X - Y - Z of SEQ ID NO: 25, wherein X is 1, Y is 2 through 150, and Z is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 151 through 244, wherein said polypeptide has an activity of specifically promoting megakaryocyte growth or differentiation.

80. An isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 79, further encoding the dipeptide Met-Lys immediately 5' to the codon for X.

81. An isolated polynucleotide according to any of Claims 78, 79, or 80 which is a DNA sequence.

82. A DNA sequence according to Claim 81, which has the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28.

83. A DNA sequence according to Claim 81, which is a cDNA sequence.

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cont.
84. A cDNA according to Claim 83, which has the corresponding nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29.

85. A DNA vector comprising a DNA sequence according to Claim 81.

86. The DNA vector of Claim 85, wherein said DNA sequence is operatively linked to an expression control DNA sequence.

87. A host cell stably transformed or transfected with a DNA according to Claim 81.

88. A host cell according to Claim 87, which expresses said DNA sequence.

89. A method for producing a polypeptide, said method comprising growing a host cell according to Claim 88 in a suitable nutrient